



## **Public hearing in Melbourne 26 June 2006**

### **Driving jobs in automotive component manufacturing**

The future of the automotive component industry, hybrid cars, skills shortages and training initiatives will be among the issues discussed by Ford, CSIRO, car parts manufacturers and the Australian Industry Group with the House of Representatives Employment Committee in Melbourne next Monday (26 June). It is the final public hearing for the Committee's inquiry into employment in the automotive component manufacturing industry.

The Committee will also hear from the Victorian Minister for Manufacturing and Export, Small Business and Financial Services, Andre Haermayer, who will comment on the importance of the automotive industry to state's economy. It is expected that the Victorian Government will also raise concerns such as pressure imposed by free trade agreements, rationalisation of the industry, global sourcing and changing consumer preferences.

Another key witness to appear is the Federation of Automotive Product Manufacturers (FAPM) who acknowledge that, although a leader in engineering design and production technologies, the industry must attract international investment capital and expand beyond the local economy if it is to compete long-term.

Chair of the Committee Phillip Barresi said, "the Committee is looking for examples of innovative practices of the industry working to ensure its own sustainability in the context of pressured local market and increased global competition."

"The Committee has heard a lot of evidence about the challenges facing the automotive component industry, particularly in terms of global competition and skills shortages," he said.

"The Committee will be working to assess and make recommendations on ways to support automotive component manufacturing companies as they seek to face the challenges of an ever competitive industry."

#### **Public hearing program – Monday 26 June 2006**

**Venue:** Monash Conference Centre, Level 7, 30 Collins St, Melbourne

<b>10.15am</b>	Australian Die Casting Association (Submission no. 22)
<b>11.00am</b>	Flexidrive Cables Pty Ltd (Submission no. 14)
<b>11.30am</b>	Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (Submission no. 17)
<b>1.15pm</b>	Australian Industry Group (Submission no. 26)
<b>2.00pm</b>	CSIRO
<b>2.45pm</b>	Federation of Automotive Product Manufacturers (Submission no. 16)
<b>3.30pm</b>	Ford Australia (Submission no. 4)
<b>4.00pm</b>	Victorian Government – the Minister for Manufacturing (Submission no. 24)

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and submissions are available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewrwp/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing [ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ewrwp.reps@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Phil Barresi on (03) 9873 8351.  
**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4162 or 0407 406 337.